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March 19, 2015

Mr. Dan Wolf
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

**Re: Application for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit by
Great River Energy and Minnesota Power for the
Motley Area 115 kV Project
MPUC Docket Nos. ET2, E015/CN-14-853; ET2, E015/TL- 15-204**

Dear Mr. Wolf:

On behalf of Great River Energy and Minnesota Power (Applicants), under a separate eFile submission, dated today, please find the combined Certificate of Need Application and Route Permit Application (Application) to construct approximately 15.5 – 16.5 miles of 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line and associated facilities in the Motley area in Morrison, Cass and Todd counties, Minnesota (Project). The Application details the Applicants' need for and proposed route for the Project.

The Project is needed to address transmission system overload issues in the Motley area and to serve a new substation, which will in turn serve a new pump station proposed by Minnesota Pipe Line Company as part of the Minnesota Pipe Line Reliability Project (Docket No. PL-5/CN-14-320). The existing transmission system that serves this area of the state has reached its maximum peak load-serving capability and is not sufficiently robust to serve the new pump station.

The Certificate of Need Application is submitted under Minnesota Rules 7849.0010 to 7849.2100 and Minnesota Statutes Section 216B.243. Two paper copies and CD ROMs of the Application have been provided to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. One paper copy and one CD ROM of the Application have been provided to Mr. Michael Zajicek of the Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources Staff.

A check for \$3,650 made payable to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for 25% of the total estimated fee for processing the Certificate of Need application (as required by Minn. R. 7849.0210 and Minn. Stat. § 216B.243, subd. 6) has been provided to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

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The portions of the Application addressing the route permit is submitted under the Alternative Permitting processes of Minn. Rules 7850.2800 to 7850.3900 and Minn. Stat. § 216E.04. Twelve paper copies and CD ROMs of the Application have been provided to Richard Davis of the Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review and Analysis staff.

A check for \$20,000 made payable to the Department of Commerce for 50% of the total estimated fee for processing the Route Permit Application (as required by Minn. R. 7850.1800 and Minn. Stat. § 216E.18) has been provided to the Department of Commerce.

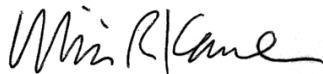
Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 216E.04, subdivision 4 (*citing* Minn. Stat. § 216E.03, subd. 4) and Minnesota Rule 7850.3300 (*citing* Minn. R. 7850.2100), Great River Energy will, on behalf of Applicants, provide notice of the Application to the required stakeholders within 15 days.

Please direct any questions you may have with respect to the filing to Mark Strohfus of Great River Energy at 763-445-5210.

Thank you for your attention to this important regional project.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY



William R. Kaul
Vice President, Transmission

c: Deborah Pile, DOC-EERA
Service List

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